

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1.     **(Original)** A method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations, characterized by the use of the following composition:
  - a.     Tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight % relative to the plaster amount;
  - b.     Sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount;
  - c.     If applicable, sodium polyphosphate with an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units.
  
2.     **(Original)** The method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the components b and/or c are mixed together in the dry state and are added to the plaster to be retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder, having a particle size distribution for which at least 95% of the components are smaller than 200 $\mu$ m.
  
3.     **(Currently Amended)** The method for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations as defined in ~~claims 1 and 2~~, claim 1, characterized in that a compound is used, which comprises a share of sodium polyphosphate of at least 0.01 weight %, relative to the plaster amount.

4. **(Original)** The use of a compound for retarding plaster setting and plaster preparations comprising the following components:
- a. Tartaric acid in an amount of at least 0.01 to 1.0 weight %, relative to the plaster amount;
  - b. Sodium trimetaphosphate in an amount of 0.05 to 0.5 weight %, relative to the plaster amount, if necessary in combination with
  - c. Sodium polyphosphate, if applicable, having an average chain length of at least 4 to 50 phosphate units, wherein the components are added to the plaster and the plaster preparation to be retarded in the form of a fine-particle powder.
5. **(Currently Amended)** Plaster and plaster preparations comprising the components listed in ~~one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 4.